

## Press Release

### **Navelim Farmers Benefit from Vedanta VAB's Rice Cultivation Workshop**

Vedanta's Value-Added Business (VAB) under its 'Gram Nirman' Project, organized a workshop aimed at enhancing agricultural practices among local farmers in Navelim, Goa. The event, held at Shri Betal Temple Hall, Durigwada, saw enthusiastic participation from over 50 farmers eager to adopt modern techniques and leverage government support for growth in agriculture.

During the workshop, Assistant Agriculture Officer, Pankaj Pokle, from the Divisional Agriculture Office in Sanquelim, also explained to the farmers about the various government subsidies available for agricultural activities. These subsidies encompassed crucial aspects such as ploughing, harvesting, tool procurement, well construction, and crop loss mitigation strategies.

Joining the cause, block technology manager, Poonam, representing the Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Sanquelim, provided valuable insights into advanced rice planting methods. Poonam also highlighted ATMA's supportive schemes tailored for turmeric and marigold cultivation, poultry farming, and beekeeping, featuring diverse opportunities for farmers to diversify their agricultural pursuits.

And sharing his successful experience with System of Rice Intensification (SRI) technique, farmer Sundar Naik from Maina, inspired fellow farmers with practical insights into enhancing rice yields sustainably.

The workshop reaffirmed VAB's commitment to holistic socio-economic development in the communities it serves. It also witnessed active participation from the CSR team from VAB, along with Ms Muskan Gupta, Lead Sustainability (ESG) at Sesa Goa.

Highlighting the significance of such initiatives, **Saptesh Sardesai, CEO, VAB** added, "Our 'Gram Nirman' Project is a clear highlight of VAB's dedication to promoting sustainable agricultural practices and empowering local farmers with knowledge and resources."

Expressing his appreciation, **Ulhas Gawas, beneficiary of the workshop** stated, "Vedanta & Vanarai team have done a commendable job by organizing this awareness session for farmers in Navelim. Such initiatives open new doors of opportunity for farmers, encouraging them to embrace agricultural activities wholeheartedly."

Through collaborative efforts and community-focused initiatives like these, VAB continues to play a critical role in promoting rural prosperity and sustainable agricultural development.